

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 DPW-01 IO-12

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03

RSR-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 PRS-01 /147 W

----- 030044

R 101100 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9936

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6055

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA VS

SUBJECT: AMMO SHIPMENTS TO VIETNAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. TOKYO 4041

B. STATE 044815

C. SAIGON 4844 (NOTAL)

D. SECSTATE 065954

1. FYI: RE FONOFF IMPRESSIONS CONVEYED IN PARA 3 REFTEL A, EMBASSY CONCURS IN GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT ONLY LIMITED PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON ARMS SUPERVISION SINCE MID MARCH DESPITE EFFORTS OF U. S. AND GVN TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION. FONOFF HAS ALSO SIZED UP TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) CORRECTLY: WHILE MEETINGS HAVE BEGUN IN SAIGON, RVN AND PRG ARE AT LOGGERHEADS OVER MILITARY SITUATION AND THUS FAR QUESTION OF POINTS OF ENTRY AND ARMSSHIPMENT CONTROLS HAS NOT ARISEN, NOR DOES IT SEEM LIKELY TO DO SO SOON. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC TO REGIONS AND SUB- REGIONS MIGHT OCCUR, BUT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. END FYI.

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2. ICCS EFFORT IN MONITORING ARMS SHIPMENTS HAS BEEN DELAYED BY RATIONALIZATION THAT NEITHER AGREEMENT NOR PROTOCOL PROVIDE CLEAR GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURES WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN ARMS SUPERVISION. PROCEDURES ARE ONLY NOW BEING DEVELOPED WITHIN ICCS FOR MONITORING SHIPMENTS. NONETHELESS, ICCS IS FULLY DEPLOYED TO TWO OF THREE RVN POINTS OF ENTRY (SAIGON AND DANANG); IN CAM RANH, ONLY CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS ARE PRESENT. IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES, ICCS HAS NONETHELESS BEEN ABLE INFORMALLY TO MONITOR SHIPMENTS THROUGH RVN POINTS OF ENTRY WITH CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF EFFECTIVENESS.

3. IN THIS REGARD, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A CANADIAN- AUTHORED REPORT WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE ACCURATE AND WHICH CHARACTERIZES GVN POSTURE ON ARMS SHIPMENTS AS " FULLY COOPERATIVE". COMMENTING SPECIFICALLY ON PORT OF DANANG, TO WHICH JAPANESE- ORIGIN SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT, AND WHERE ICCS POE TEAM DEPLOYED, REPORT STATES THAT GVN OFFICIALS GIVE TEAM ADVANCE NOTICE OF SHIP ARRIVALS, PROVIDE TEAM WITH COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION, ALLOW FULL FREEDOM OF PORT AREA, AND PERMIT THE TEAM TO MAKE SPOT CHECKS UPON REQUEST. WITHOUT NAMING CANADIANS AS SOURCE OF THIS REPORT, SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE USED AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF GVN OPENNESS ABOUT RECEIPTS OF U. S. ORIGIN ARMS AND EQUIPMENT AND GVN COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF PARIS AGREEMENT.

4. AS GOJ ASSUMES, DAO IS CARRYING OUT SAME CONTROL AND VERIFICATION FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY MACV. PROCEDURE IS GENERALLY AS OUTLINED IN REF A: RVNAF REPORTS ON AMMO EXPENDITURES AND EQUIPMENT OR MATERIAL LOSSES ARE TRANSMITTED TO DAO TOGETHER WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION AND REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT ON ONE- FOR- ONE BASIS. THUS, PRIOR TO PLACEMENT OF REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT BY DAO, GVN ARMED FORCES MUST BOTH MAKE A SPECIFIC REQUEST AND ESTABLISH BY APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION THE LOSS OR EXPENDITURE OF THE ITEMS FOR WHICH REPLACEMENT IS REQUESTED. DAO SCREENS ALL LIFT DATA MESSAGES (FOR AIR SHIPMENTS) AND ADVANCE COPIES OF SHIP MANIFESTS. UPON ARRIVAL OF SHIPMENTS, DAO ALSO CHECKS ALL COPIES OF TITLE TRANSFERS.

5. SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE IS IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH THAT OBTAINING RE COMMUNIST ARMS SHIPMENTS. WHILE PRG HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS CHOICE OF POINTS OF ENTRY, IT HAS NEVER FORMALLY NOTIFIED ICCS OF THEM. ICCS TEAMS ARE, HOWEVER, AT ONE POINT UNOFFICIALLY
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DESIGNATED BY PRG (DUC CO), AND ARE PLANNING TO DEPLOY TO THE

OTHER TWO (GIO LINH, XA MAT) SINCE IN EACH CASE THESE SITES ARE IDENTICAL WITH POINTS LISTED UNDER ARTICLE 4(D) OF THE PROTOCOL. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, NOTWITHSTANDING REPORTS OF MASSIVE SHIPMENTS OF ARMS INTO RVN BY COMMUNISTS, NONE OF ICCS TEAMS HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO MONITOR OR BEEN MADE AWARE OF ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE PRG.

6. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DESIRE OF GOJ TO RESPOND AS FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO OPPOSITION CHARGES, BUT DOUBTS THAT EITHER USG OR GOJ STAND TO GAIN FROM DETAILED SCRUTINY OF PROCEDURES USED BY USG AND GVN IN ABSENCE OF SIMILAR COOPERATION BY PRG WITH ICCS. ASSUMING THAT ICCS AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE WILL BE IN POSITION TO REQUEST ALL PARTIES TO PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION ON ARMS SHIPMENTS SINCE CEASE- FIRE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT U. S. PROCEDURES RE ARMS SHIPMENTS AT THAT TIME WILL STAND UP TO THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY. NO REPRESENTATIONS WHATEVER HAVE BEEN MADE TO U. S. OR GVN ON THIS ISSUE EITHER BY ICCS GENERALLY OR BY ANY MEMBER OF ICCS, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAVE RAISED ISSUE OF U. S. ARMS SHIPMENTS FROM JAPAN IN JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION MEETINGS. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH HUNGARIAN AND POLISH ICCS REPS, EMBASSY HAS URGED THEM TO DEVELOP IRRS PROCEDURES FOR POE TEAMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, INDICATING U. S. WOULD WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. WHITEHOUSE

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